



University of Pittsburgh EMS Fellowship

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference

Wilderness EMS Day 2019

Saturday, October 26 0900 until sometime after dark

Meet at 0900 (instructors 0800) at:

Keith Conover's house

55 Sigrid Drive, Carnegie, PA 15106-3062

412-276-1980

Field exercise at:

Scott Township Kane Woods Park, Whiskey Point

Trailhead, Junction Old Bower Hill Rd, Main St,

Scrubgrass Rd (for Google Maps: 2 Main St,

Bridgeville, PA 15017)

40.382081, -80.090371

Register: <http://www.asrc.net/register>; registration capped at 50 students.

As in years past, we will have Wilderness EMS Day on a crisp, clear October Saturday. Actually, no, we want rain and sleet as it makes a better exercise. It will take place regardless of the weather: this *is* a wilderness EMS exercise. **You will be out in the field until after dark.**

The prime motivator is to provide field training for the University of Pittsburgh's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fellowship. An EMS Fellow is a physician who has completed medical school and an emergency medicine residency, and is pursuing additional training in the management of EMS systems. This curriculum requires education about Wilderness EMS, including a practical exercise. The Fellows learn by providing over-the-radio medical advice to you as you care for simulated patients in a wild setting.

WEMS Day is also a learning experience for members of emergency medicine, EMS and search and rescue (SAR) organizations. The Fellows need practice dealing with Wilderness EMS providers, and having EMS and SAR personnel there provides this. People of all levels, from medical students through wilderness first aid through EMTs of various stripes to field-capable

physicians, will be participating.

We meet at Keith Conover's house at 9 AM (**instructors meet at 8 to prepare for the day**). Those practicing incident management will brief us and organize us into teams, and move us to Kane Woods, a 5-minute drive. We will issue a gridded map.

Once at Kane Woods, we dispatch teams to various grid locations. You navigate to them, keeping in touch via handheld radios. You find an instructor and a mock victim. The instructor gives you a scenario, which you manage with radio advice from one of the Fellows. Your team switches locations and scenarios on as directed.

At some inconvenient point when everyone is tired and cold and it's getting dark, the entire group will have to deal with a complex rescue. Once done, we head back to Keith's for a free dinner in front of a roaring fire, and a debrief.

*Attendance is limited to the first 50 students who register; there is no cost.* People from the following organizations usually participate:

- University of Pittsburgh Emergency Medicine Residency

- University of Pittsburgh Medical School Wilderness Medical Society Student Section
- University of Pittsburgh Student EMS
- Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Groups (**please wear your blue ASRC uniform shirt**):
  - Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
  - Mountaineer Area Rescue Group
  - Northwest Pennsylvania K-9 Search and Rescue
  - Maryland Search and Rescue
  - Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Part of SAR (and EMS) is managing larger operations, and this is indeed a larger operation that needs to be managed much like a large lost-person search or a large multi-casualty EMS incident. So this provides an opportunity to exercise incident-management skills as well.

More information is at [archive.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/2019-10-26-WEMS-Day-2019-Briefing.pdf](http://www.asrc.net/ASRC-Training/2019-10-26-WEMS-Day-2019-Briefing.pdf); register at <http://www.asrc.net/register>.